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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/502,416	07/23/2004	Daniel Greub	0115-044591	3939

28289 7590 01/18/2007  
THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C.  
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EXAMINER
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CHIAM, DINH D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2883

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31 DAYS	01/18/2007	PAPER

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10/502, 416

07/23/04

*Greub, Daniel*

0115-044591

EXAMINER

*Erin D. Chum*

ART UNIT

PAPER

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20070105

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Commissioner for Patents

Please see attached document.

Art Unit: 2883

Newly submitted claims 17 and 36 directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the amended limitation recites the “cylindrical sleeve having an axial slit” is a distinct species of the originally presented claim 17.

In the Non-final Office Action (mailed July 19, 2006) examiner objected the claimed recitation of the “longitudinal slit, cylindrical sleeve” as being unclear. Examiner clearly explained the clarity issue is caused by the comma usage (please see page 3 of the Office Action, 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet). The examiner proceeded with examination of the application considering the unclear recitation in accordance to the drawings and disclosure as explained on page 4 of the Office Action, quote:

For examination purposes, claim 17 and a portion of claim 36:

A sleeve mount comprising an interior for accommodating and securing a longitudinally slit, cylindrical sleeve, the sleeve mount provided in a coupling of an optical plug-in connection for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions, the sleeve mount having means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis, wherein the means for securing are arranged in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount.

will be considered to mean:

A sleeve mount assembly comprising a sleeve mount having an interior for accommodating and securing a ~~longitudinally slit, cylindrical sleeve,~~ cylindrical sleeve having a longitudinal slit, the sleeve mount assembly further comprising ~~provided in a coupling of an~~ optical plug-in connections for accommodating ferrules of two optical plug-in connectors introduced from opposite directions, the sleeve mount having means for securing the sleeve against rotation about a sleeve axis, wherein the means for securing are arranged

Art Unit: 2883

in a central part of the sleeve mount and are restricted to the central part of the sleeve mount.

However, in view of the current amendment, applicant amended claims 17 and 36 to recite “securing a cylindrical sleeve having an axial slit” instead of the “a cylindrical sleeve having a longitudinal slit”; the amended limitation is clearly a distinct species from the original presentation. Furthermore, applicant’s specification and drawings does not disclose an “axial slit.”

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 17 and 36 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03. The amendment changed the scope of the invention, thus the subsequent amended limitations of claims, 17, 36 and the dependent claims also changed the scope of the invention. Therefore, the dependent claims ( 28-32, 34-35, and 38-44) are also withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erin D. Chiem whose telephone number is (571) 272-3102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9AM - 5PM.

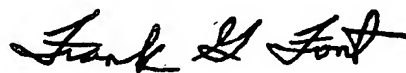
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2883

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Erin D Chiem  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2883



Frank G. Font  
Supervisory Primary Examiner  
Technology Center 2800